consider restructuring of the cadre of Public Relations. As a result, the recruitment process for filling up of the above two posts has been kept in abeyance till the Publicity cadre is restructured. However due to the non-filling of the posts, the work of publicity as well as editing have not suffered.

Prevention of flurosis

†44. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government are aware that a large number of people in several parts of the country including Rajasthan are becoming older prematurely due to the fatal disease of Fluorosis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government for prevention of the disease so far and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Fluorosis is a problem in 19 states of the country, including Rajasthan. The disease manifests itself in three forms:

(i) Dental fluorosis, which is mottling of teeth.

(ii) Skeletal fluorosis, which results in stiffness in spines and joints.

(iii) Non-Skeletal flurosis, which primarily affects the soft tissues in the body.

(c) Fluorosis can be combated by provision of safe drinking water. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) - Rural Drinking Water for tackling quality related problems and sustainability issues in respect of rural drinking water supply. Department of Drinking Water Supply is involved in collecting data on Fluorosis endemicity in the states. Along with Department of Drinking Water Supply, UNICEF has supplied ion-meters to different states for estimation of Fluoride in drinking water. National

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Institute of Communicable Diseases is providing training to Public Health Engineers and medical professionals to generate awareness about Fluorosis and check the spread of Fluorosis in the country.

Prevention of Dengue Fever

45. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have taken any steps to prevent dengue fever in Delhi, after the report of some cases in the city;

(b) whether Government are aware of serious viral fever spread over villages of Assam, which in some cases is fatal also; and

(c) if so, what help has been given to Assam Health Machinery to cope with it and what is the mode of such help?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) During the year 2003, only one indigenous case and four imported cases of Dengue have been reported in Delhi so far. Regular clinical and vector surveillance alongwith focused awareness campaigns are being carried out in different parts of the city by Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC).

(b) As per reports received from the Govt, of Ass"am, there have been 18 cases with 11 deaths due to suspected Japanese Encephalitis upto 16th July, 2003. No case of Dengue has been reported.

(c) For prevention and control of vector borne diseases in the country, National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) is in operation as a Category - II Centrally Sponsored Scheme. However, the State of Assam is provided 100% central assistance under the Programme. Central assistance is provided in the form of material and in cash, which can be utilized for control of these diseases as and when required.

SARS's check at Delhi IGI Airport

46. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Pay Rs. 1000 and escape SARS check at Delhi's IGI" which appeared in the media in April this year; and